

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for preventing receipt by receivers of unwanted electronic mail messages (email) sent by senders in a communication system, comprising the steps of:

determining whether a particular sender is a registered sender of email to the a particular receiver comprises valid message authentication code (MAC) information , wherein the particular sender becomes a registered sender by satisfying a requirement which will allow the particular sender to become a registered sender of email to the particular receiver;

filtering weeding out at a gateway of the communication system all email directed to a the particular receiver that does not comprise valid MAC information originates from senders that are determined not to be registered senders to the particular receiver; and

providing passing to the particular receiver all with email directed to the particular receiver that comprises valid MAC information and that originates from senders determined to be registered senders of email to the particular receiver.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 18, wherein said determining step the step of registering the particular sender comprises the steps of:

setting up establishing by the particular sender a cookie which indicates to the particular receiver whether the particular sender has satisfied the requirement to allow the particular sender to become a registered sender to the particular receiver;

setting up establishing an address related to an address associated with the particular receiver which will inform the particular sender that the particular receiver desires that the particular sender be able to send email to the particular receiver; and

setting up establishing by the particular receiver a key which is forwarded to the particular sender by the particular receiver to inform the particular sender that the particular sender is authorized to send email to the particular receiver and is now a registered sender and for use by the particular sender whenever the particular sender wishes to send email to the particular receiver.

3. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 2, wherein said step of setting up establishing the address comprises generating a pseudorandom function with a keyed hash function

using an input number comprising a unique serial number for use in generating an identifier for email between the particular sender to the particular receiver.

4. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 2, wherein said step of setting up establishing an encrypted address comprises sending email from the particular receiver to the particular sender using public key encryption.

5. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 2, wherein said determining registering step further comprises sending to the particular user by the particular receiver, an encrypted key wherein the encrypted key is a member of a set of encrypted keys.

6. (Original) The method recited in claim 5, further comprising the step of storing the encrypted key by the particular sender in a table of encrypted keys for use by the particular sender whenever the particular sender desires to send email to the particular receiver.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 1, wherein said the step of MAC determining whether email comprises valid MAC information comprises comparing the MAC against a value determined by the particular receiver in said sender determining step and, if the value and the determined MAC are the same, accepting by the particular receiver the email from the sender.

9. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 7 1, wherein said the step of MAC determining step whether email comprises valid MAC information comprises comparing the MAC to an available header in an address of the particular receiver, in the received email message, whereby the MAC is not a valid MAC if the MAC and the header are not identical.

10. (Currently amended) A server method for preventing receipt by receivers of unwanted electronic mail messages (email) sent by senders in a communication system, comprising:

a determining module for determining whether a particular sender is a registered sender of email to the a particular receiver comprises valid message authentication code (MAC) information, wherein the particular sender becomes a registered sender by satisfying a requirement which will allow the particular sender to become a registered sender of email to the particular receiver;

a weeding filtering out module for filtering weeding out at a gateway of the communication system all email directed to a the particular receiver that does not comprise valid MAC information originates from senders that are determined not to be registered senders to the particular receiver; and

a passing provisioning module for providing passing out to the particular receiver all with email directed to the particular receiver that comprises valid MAC information and that originates from senders determined to be registered senders of email to the particular receiver.

11. (Currently amended) The server recited in claim 10 20, wherein said determining registering module further comprises a generator for generating a pseudorandom function with a keyed hash function using an input number comprising a unique serial number for use in generating an identifier for email between the particular sender to the particular receiver.

12. (Currently amended) The server recited in claim 11, wherein said determining registering module sets up an encrypted address for sending email from the particular receiver to the particular sender using public key encryption.

13. (Currently amended) The server recited in claim 13 11, wherein said determining registering module sends to the particular user by the particular receiver, an encrypted key wherein the encrypted key is a member of a set of encrypted keys.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The method server of claim 14 10, wherein said ~~weeding out filtering~~ module compares the MAC against a value, and if the value and the determined MAC are the same, accepts by the particular receiver the email from the sender.

16. (Currently amended) The method server recited in claim 15, wherein the ~~weeding out filtering~~ module compares the MAC to an available header in an address of the particular receiver, in the received email message, whereby the MAC is not a valid MAC if the MAC and the header are not identical.

17. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining if a particular sender is a registered sender of email to the particular receiver, wherein the particular sender becomes a registered sender by satisfying a requirement.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of registering the particular sender when the particular sender is determined not to be a registered send of email to the particular receiver.

19. (New) The server of claim 10, further comprising a registering module for determining if a particular sender is a registered sender of email to the particular receiver, wherein the particular sender becomes a registered sender by satisfying a requirement.

20 (New) The server of claim 19, wherein the registering module is also for registering the particular sender when the particular sender is determined not to be a registered send of email to the particular receiver.